

Delavan

A
Bicentennial
Community

1976



ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign

**A Pictorial Review of
DELAVAN, ILLINOIS**

has been prepared by the

**DELAVAN COMMUNITY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

to commemorate our nation's

BICENTENNIAL YEAR

1976

This pictorial review of Delavan is concerned with several things:

— First, with some structures formerly located in the Delavan community which were built in a previous time and no longer exist.

— Second, with some representative, presently existing structures which were built before 1900.

— Third, with Delavan as it is today.

It is the sincere hope of those involved in this project that you will gain a greater insight into your community's history and a greater appreciation of the community in which you live.

DELAVAN COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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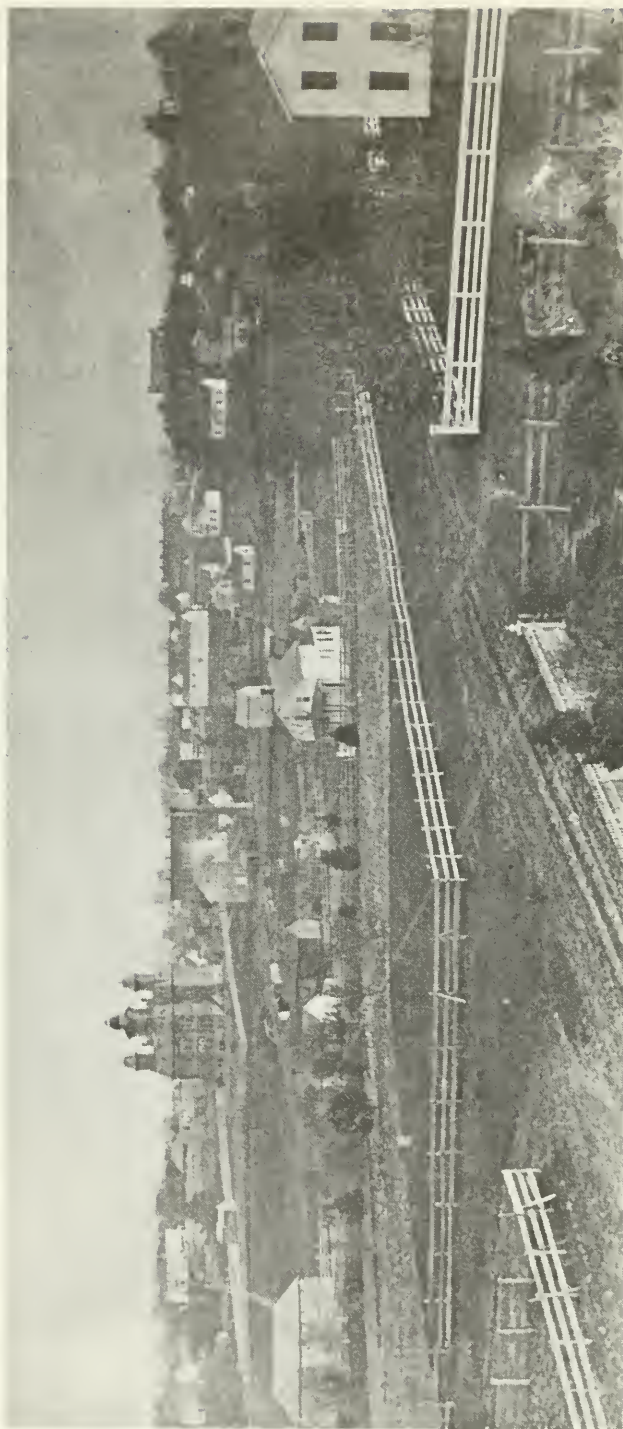
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At the north, south, east and west approaches to the city, this sign informs all those entering that Delavan has earned the right to be called a Bicentennial City.



This is a bird's eye view of Delavan taken in 1878. The house in the right foreground is that in which the Basil Brownings now reside, 212 Dickey Street. You are looking southeast from there.



A view of Locust Street, early 1900's,
looking south from Third Street.



In this present day aerial view of Delavan you are looking northeast over the city, with Locust Street starting in the lower left foreground and running diagonally to the top.



The Delavan Bicentennial Commission chose this logo the winner of the Commission's contest to find an original Delavan Bicentennial Logo. It was designed by Mrs. Jack (Paula) Naffziger. This picture shows the logo as it was painted on the Jeckel Plumbing and Heating Company building at Fourth and Locust Streets by Delavan High School students.

The flag, of course, is in red, white, and blue and the circles bright yellow. In black lettering is Delavan's slogan, "Our Grain and Livestock Help Feed the World" — "Delavan, A Contributing, Caring Community". The word "Delavan" is printed in bright blue.



The handsome building in the foreground of this Locust Street picture was the meeting place of the Masonic and Eastern Star Lodges for many years, before they moved into their present headquarters on East Third Street. This photo was taken looking south from Fourth Street.



A present-day view of Locust Street looking north from Fourth Street. The building in the foreground housed the American Legion and Auxiliary for many years.



The Delavan Community Historical Society Building, located in the 300 block on Locust Street. The Society was organized in June 1973 with more than three hundred charter members.



A window display in the Delavan Community Society Headquarters. A different display is featured monthly.



The Mackinaw River. The Pottawatomie Indians lived along the river, as evidenced by artifacts found on adjoining farms. Present-day area residents find much pleasure in fishing along this scenic waterway.



The Mackinaw River is not always a quiet, peaceful stream. In flood stage it is a serious threat to the farmlands and roadways, as well as to many homes. The flooded areas in this 1974 photo are farmed by Dewey Winkler, Jerry Howard, and the Goeken brothers.



A view of the Mackinaw Valley north of Delavan along the Dillon blacktop presents beautiful scenes during all seasons of the year.



A Revolutionary Soldier's Grave. Joseph Elliott Gray, a private, born September 17, 1756, in Pelham, Massachusetts, died in March, 1841, in Tazewell County, Illinois. He is buried in Deacon Cemetery, east of Groveland. His grave has been marked by the Peoria chapter of the D.A.R.

Although records tell us that there are eight Revolutionary soldiers buried in Tazewell County, apparently Pvt. Gray's is the only grave marked by the D.A.R.



The first schoolhouse in Delavan was erected on Chestnut Street (present site of the National Guard Armory) in 1840 by the Delavan Association. It was also used for church purposes. It was torn down in 1940, after it had been moved to east Third Street on the site where the American Legion Building now stands.

The second schoolhouse in Delavan was a two-room one, which was erected in about 1860.



The third Delavan school was erected in 1871 at the northeast corner of Second and Locust Streets. It was used as both a grade and high school, the first high school class graduating in June, 1876. The school was torn down in 1964.



The high school building of the present school complex was opened to classes in January, 1923.



An aerial view of the present school which houses classes from kindergarten through the twelfth grade. The additions were completed in 1963.



The bell which is now displayed on the high school lawn is one which hung in the 1871 red brick school. When the building was taken down in 1963, the bell was purchased from the school system by Robert M. Culbertson, Sr., and was placed at its present location through the efforts of Frank W. Hatten.



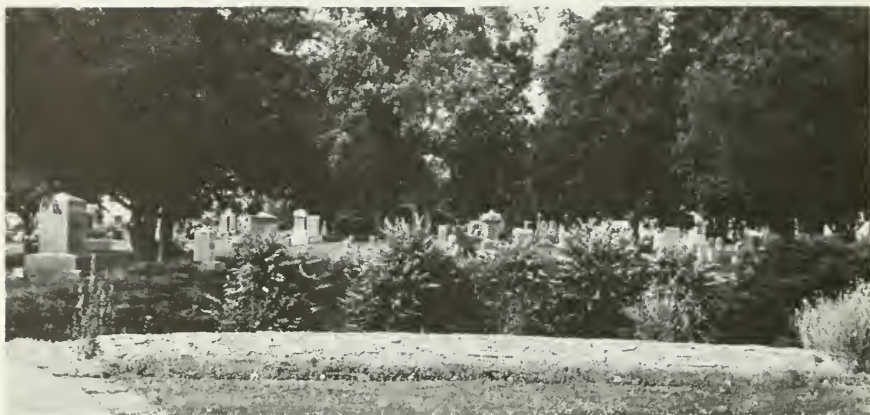
The Freeman School in Boynton Township, a one-room country school which was built in about 1870 and was last used in 1947. The building was demolished in the spring of 1976.



The Winkel School in Malone Township was constructed in 1915 as a one-room school. Besides the school, this community also had a post office, store, and elevator.



The Winkel School after it was remodeled and made into a home in 1951. Many one-room schools in the area became family homes after the consolidation of school systems.



Prairie Rest Cemetery is located one-half mile east of Delavan. Two early headstones are dated 1842 and 1843.



St. Mary's Cemetery, established in the late 1850's, is located one mile northeast of Delavan.



In Hittle Grove Cemetery in Hittle Township, east of Delavan, is a tombstone marking the graves of Mrs. George W.G. (Mary Ann) Orndorff, twenty-seven years old, and her two daughters, Emma, eight, and Ulalia, six, who were murdered at their home southeast of Delavan in 1860 by John Ott. The murderer was hanged for his crime in the Pekin courthouse square. The story is inscribed on the tombstone.



Lincoln marker, located about three miles south of Delavan at the Tazewell-Logan County line, tells us of the fact that Abraham Lincoln, as a lawyer, travelled this road on his "rounds" of the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Illinois in the 1840's. He visited in Delavan.



The Civil War Monument in Delavan City Park is inscribed with the names of eighty-four Civil War soldiers of the area. It was moved to its present location in 1871, first having been erected on West Third Street.



A G.A.R. Memorial stands in a triangle at Locust and Eighth Streets. It was dedicated in 1935 to the members of Delavan Post 155, Grand Army of The Republic.



The old railroad bridge on East Fourth Street was built in 1883 and removed in 1974.



The new railroad bridge on Fourth Street was completed in 1975.



Reid Corn Plaque, located north of Delavan (placed there in 1955), is dedicated to James L. Reid (1844-1910) for his scientific development and research of the nationally known "Reid's Yellow Dent Corn".



This windmill, one of the few which still stands in the area, was once used as a source of power. It is located on the Mount Curtis farm.



Boynton Town Hall is located in Boynton Township. The township was organized in 1854, and the hall, built in 1885, still stands. It is used as a voting place, and has been used for social functions and as a meeting place for various organizations.



This pump at Boynton was used by Boynton School pupils. The school was built in about 1870, and there were also a church (1871), store, blacksmith shop, and post office (1885). All of these buildings are gone. Only the Town Hall and the pump remain.



The original Delavan Armory was located on Fifth Street, having been built in 1884. In 1939 when a new Delavan Armory was erected, the old Armory was purchased by Ray Lillibridge and torn down. The lumber was sold to be used for machine sheds, additions to old barns, etc., in the Delavan vicinity.



The Delavan Armory on Third and Pine Streets was dedicated in 1939. Delavan has had a militia from 1838 to the present day.



Delavan City Park borders on Elm Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets. The grounds of this park were established by the founders of the Delavan Colony.



At one time there was a band stand, and also a fountain, in the City Park, but as years went by these were removed.



Delavan Lake Park at the north edge of Delavan has two lakes, two shelters, playground equipment, ovens and an outdoor chapel. The grounds were purchased in 1957.

Delavan enjoys two additional recreation parks. Fifth Street Park was established in 1970 with facilities for tennis and baseball. Gardner Field, located at Locust and East A Streets, is also a ball park.



Delavan Swimming Pool, East First Street, opened in 1927. In 1942, it was reopened after having been closed for several years, and it has been in continuous operation since that time.



The Masonic Hall, East Third Street, is the home of Delavan Lodge No. 156, A.F. and A.M., which was organized in 1854. The Eastern Star was organized in 1870. This building was erected in 1969.



American Legion Hall, erected in 1972, is on East Third Street. Delavan Post No. 382 was organized in 1919. The American Legion Auxiliary was organized in 1921.



Ayer Public Library, at Locust and Second Streets, has the distinction of being the first tax-supported township library in the State of Illinois. The library was founded in 1907 and the present building dedicated in 1914.



Tazewell County National Bank, Locust and Third Streets, was organized in 1887. The present building was erected in 1962. There has been a bank on this site since 1869, at which time a branch bank was opened here.



*Birth-place of
THE DELAVAN ADVERTISER.
Charles R. Fiske, Editor, Manager
and Proprietor.
The first issues were about 6"x9,"
and printed on one side only.
The first issues of the regular paper
were printed on a Franklin Press
and all the advertisements in rhyme.
Donated by O.B. Orent 1917*

In 1865 this building
stood a little south
of the wagon fall
on Locust Street.

The Delavan Advertiser building on the west side of Locust Street housed the first newspaper published in Delavan. This was in the 1860's.



The Delavan Times has served the community since 1874. All copies of the Times, from 1874 to the present time, are on microfilm and can be seen and read at the Ayer Public Library. This project was recently accomplished through co-operative efforts of the Library and the Delavan Community Historical Society. Ruth Larimore is the present editor.



The Delavan Post Office was established in 1839, and has operated in several locations. This building on East Fifth Street was remodeled in 1965 to become the Post Office. Edward Neumann is the present Postmaster.



The Delavan Fire District was organized in 1953. The first fire department, known as the Hook and Ladder Company of Delavan, was organized in 1874. The present fire house was built in 1960.



Delavan City Hall is located on East Fourth Street. Delavan was founded in 1837, incorporated as a village in 1865, re-incorporated in 1872, and incorporated as a city in 1888. Today's city council is composed of six aldermen, two from each of the three wards. Lester Devore is the present mayor.



In 1951, The Delavan Woman's Club arranged for the placing of street signs at each corner along Fourth Street and along Locust Street. In 1975, the Delavan Junior Woman's Club and the City Council completed the project by placing street signs at each corner of the city, identifying every intersection.



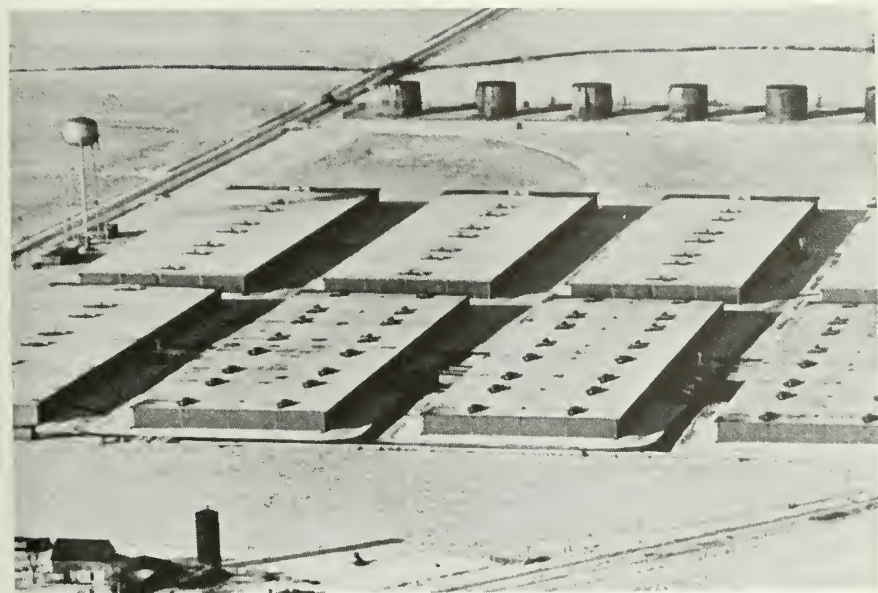
A Blacksmith Shop on Third Street, between Locust and Pine Streets, belonged to N.A. Pearson. This building was erected in the late 1800's and still stands.



The Delavan Depot. In 1867 the first railroad was completed through Delavan. This was the Jacksonville branch of the Chicago, Alton, and St. Louis Railroad. Three years later the Pekin, Lincoln, and Decatur Railroad was completed. This Illinois Central station was built in 1928 and phased out in 1969. The building was destroyed in 1976.



The Delavan Co-operative Elevator Company was organized in 1902 and is farmer-owned. The present elevator was constructed in 1957. Alfred Wiemer is the manager.



In 1960 Hiram Walker and Son of Peoria purchased eighty acres of land southwest of Delavan from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nannen to build a Warehouse Division Plant. The buildings were put into use in 1961, and in 1975 the Caterpillar Tractor Company took over four of the warehouses for parts storage.



Several miles north and east of Delavan are two new residential additions, Hills of Argyle and Venado Lakes. This is a lovely wooded area with a number of small lakes and many new homes.



Several modern additions have become part of the Delavan community in recent years. Weber Lane is located in the southwest part of town.



Heritage Estates is a new addition in the east part of Delavan.



Pieper Heights, a new addition to the northeast part of Delavan, features a circular residential street called Pieper Circle.



Delavan is known for its beautiful tree-lined streets.



A Servicemen's Honor Roll, bearing the names of 263 Delavan area men who served in World War II, hangs in the American Legion Hall. The plaque was made possible through the efforts of the Mothers, Wives, and Sisters of Servicemen Club, in 1943.



The Delavan Baptist Church, Linden and Fifth Streets, was the first congregation to organize in Delavan. This took place in 1846. The church pictured was dedicated in 1883, with the Christian Education Building being added in 1961. The Rev. Randy Gauger is the minister.



St. Mary's Catholic Church and parish house on East Fourth Streets were erected in 1906, although the congregation dates back to 1859. Father Thomas Brajkovich is the parish priest.



In 1850, the Methodists organized in Delavan. The first church was built in 1852. This church building on Locust and Fifth Streets was begun in 1869, and additions were completed in 1930. The present minister of the Delavan United Methodist Church is Rev. Claude Mosher.



The Delavan United Presbyterian Church on West Fourth and Spruce Streets was organized in 1855. The present church building was dedicated in 1904. The Rev. Jack Porter is the minister.



The congregation of Christ Lutheran Church on North Locust Street was organized in 1957, and the church building dedicated in 1958. Present pastor is the Rev. Melvin Hiler.



The newly formed Independent Bible Church (1976) has its church home in the building on South Locust Street, formerly occupied by the Church of God. The church was built in 1954.



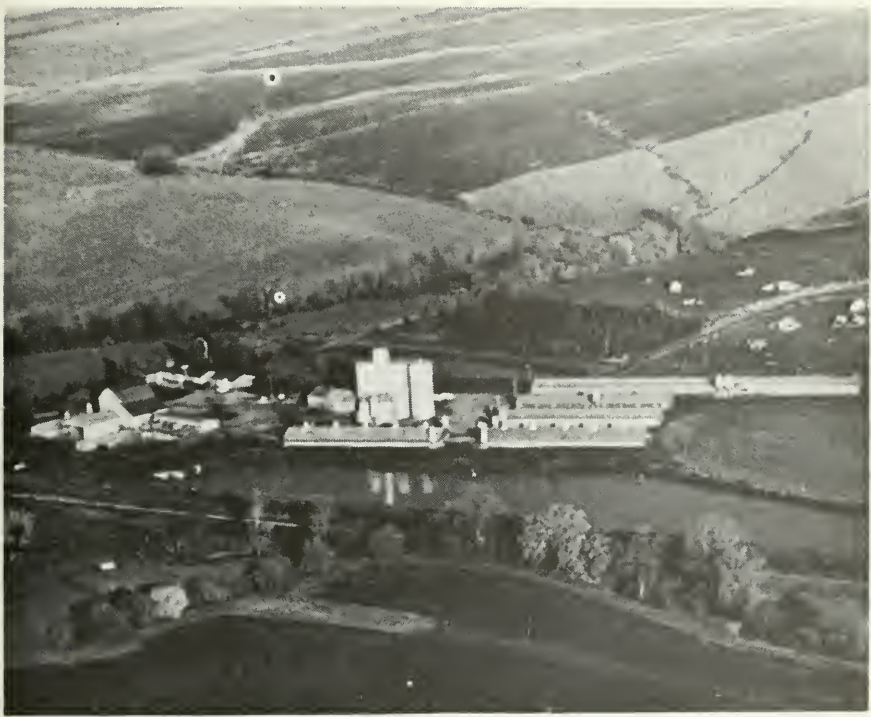
The Dillon Mennonite Church was built in 1957, although the congregation had been organized since 1945. The Rev. John Troyer is the minister.



The Presbyterian Church at Green Valley was built in 1876, so now is one hundred years old, although the congregation had been organized more than forty years before. The present minister is the Rev. Irving Kenyon.



The Jerry Howard farm just north of Delavan is often visited by tour groups interested in its modern operation, concentrating on the raising of hogs and beef cattle.



This aerial view of the Russell Jeckel farm at the north edge of Delavan shows an internationally known pork producing operation.



The farm on which Mr. and Mrs. Howard Runyon reside, southwest of Delavan, has been in Mrs. Runyon's family since 1853. Her grandfather, William C. Duncan, was born in this house in 1855, and her father, Edward C. Duncan, as well as Mrs. Runyon herself, were born here, also. The Runyon farm has been marked as a Centennial Farm by the state of Illinois.



Located northeast of Delavan on Tobaggan Avenue is the farm home of Mrs. Mary Beatty Brown Nafziger. The house was built by Jeremiah Bailey in 1850. He was the grandson of William Brown, a Quaker, who came to this area in 1828 and purchased the land in 1829. It has been owned by members of the Brown family since that time.



This barn on the Raymond Woodrow, Sr. farm, north of Green Valley in Sand Prairie Township, was built prior to 1860. It is still in use. This picture was taken in 1903.



A rustic bridge which is still in use on a country road in Dillon Township.



The Colony House — built in 1837 at the southeast corner of Third and Chestnut Streets. Here new settlers were housed until their homes were erected. It was destroyed by fire in 1879.



The home of Miss Annie Lou and Fred Giles at 206 Oak Street is one of the original colony houses, built in 1848. It was a part of the Underground Railroad for runaway slaves during the Civil War. It was formerly known as the Daniel Cheever home.



The John F. Nannen home, 310 West Fourth Street, was built prior to 1870. The Nannens purchased the home in 1944 from the Dr. A. Maclay estate.



The home of the late Dr. E.V. Lindberg and Mrs. Lindberg, 411 West Third Street, was built in 1872 on the site where Judge John T. Culbertson's home now stands. Mr. Culbertson's grandparents lived there in the 1880's. J.W. Crabb bought the house and moved it to the present location. The Lindbergs bought the home about sixty years ago from Mr. Crabb.



The home of Lee and Abe Dixon, 504 Linden Street, their home since 1902, is an original colony house, having been built about 1850.



This house at 119 West Fourth Street is owned by Mrs. Nellie Barton. It was built during the latter part of the 19th century by George Brummel, grandfather of Mrs. Dorothy Brummel Erickson. There have been no exterior changes made on the house.



The Phillips house, northwest of Delavan on Towerline Road, was built between 1855 and 1860. It is the home of Mrs. Frances Phillips O'Connell. The farmland and house were purchased by her great grandfather, John Meyers, in 1891.



The Edward Alexander home, 600 West Fifth Street, was built in 1863 by James Huston McKinstry, the grandfather of Miss Helen McKinstry. The Fred A. Diekhoffs lived in the home for almost fifty years and sold it several years ago to the Alexanders.

An interesting feature of the home is the cupola. Cupolas were part of some of the early homes and were used as watchtowers. In the Alexander home there is a stairway leading to the cupola, and at Christmas time revolving lights in various colors are placed within it.



The Lloyd Prettyman home, 202 West Third Street, was built in 1882 by Dr. Crothers. It was purchased by the Pretymans in 1957, and formerly was the home of the Elmore and the Wayne families.



The smoke house at the rear of the Lloyd Prettyman home was built when the house was, 1882. It is made of brick and was used to smoke and cure meat.



The Harry Burrell home on 303 Walnut Street was built in 1856. The Burrells purchased the home in 1947 from the Olive Hortense (Mrs. Thomas) McKinstry estate.



A few years ago the James Conklins bought this house at 301 West Fourth and are beautifully restoring it. It was built in 1871, and the main part of the exterior and porch are largely unchanged since that time. Former residents have been Mrs. Stover (who rented out rooms), Dr. Charles Jennings, Mabel Trone Yarrington and her parents, the Armacosts, the Burlingame sisters, and Miss Lou Regur.



The home of Mrs. Helen Fisher and her mother, Mrs. Anna Mann, 705 West Fourth, was built in 1887. Mrs. Fisher and her late husband bought the house from Mike Reardon in 1933.



The home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wayne Bridges, 212 North Walnut Street, is a colony house which was built by C.W. Green in 1837. It originally was erected on a farm about a quarter mile north of its present site. This was the long-time home of the Edward Randolphs.



Miss Anne L. Taylor's home, 409 West Fourth Street, was built in 1879 for a Mr. Lux. Miss Taylor's father bought it in 1889, and she has resided there since that time.



Miss Helen McKinstry's home at 211 West Third Street was built in 1893 for Mr. Trone, the father of Mrs. Mabel Yarrington. Mr. McKinstry bought the house in 1899 and it has been the family home since that time.



The Glenn Allen farm home, northwest of Delavan, was built in 1881 by David B. Allen. He was the father of Fred S. Allen and grandfather of Robert and Glenn Allen, all of whom have resided at one time or another in this home.



Miss Harriet Price's home, 602 West Fourth Street, was built in 1896 by her grandfather, David B. Allen. She is the third generation of her family to live in the house.



The home of Judge John T. Culbertson and Mrs. Culbertson at 401 West Third Street was the former Willis Crabb home. It was built in 1917 and purchased by the Culbertsons in 1939.



In the fall of 1914, Ray H. Lillibridge began building this bungalow to share with his bride-to-be, Marguerite Jenike. It was completed in time for them to move in after their June, 1915 wedding. The only exterior change through the years was the raising of the roof to form the front dormer so that bedrooms could be added to accommodate a growing family. Mr. Lillibridge built the house for his bride, and after more than sixty years she is still residing there.

The home is located at 407 E. Third St.



This spacious home was built in 1905 for Samuel and Mary Wood. It was occupied by members of the Wood family until 1970, at which time it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. John F. Watson. The Watson family has resided there since that time. The home is located at 502 West Fourth Street.



The John M. Ryan farm is located just southeast of Delavan. The home was built by another John Ryan in 1889, and the present John Ryan is of the third generation to reside there.



The barn at the rear of the Arthur Morse property, 207 West Third, is over 100 years old. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bailey, grandparents of Mrs. Morse, bought the property from the Byron Pratts.

DELAVAN BUSINESSES

Adair Building Service and Realty
Alexander Insurance
Bale's Barber Shop
Beauty Bar
Berger Department Store
Birky Mobil Oil Distributor
Bluhm Contractor
Bonomo Tool and Die Company
Bud's Recreation
Burrell Trucking Company
Christensen Contractor
Colonial Laundry
Colonial Park Realty
Corner Tap
Culbertson and Culbertson
Daily Cleaners
Dairy Freeze
Day Beauty Shop
Delavan Red Fox
Delavan Co-Op Elevator Company
Delavan Concrete Service
Delavan IGA Store
Delavan Flowers and Gifts
Delavan Lanes, Inc.
Delavan Lanes Snack Bar
Delavan Lumber Company
Delavan Mutual Fire Insurance Company
Delavan Speed Wash
Delavan Times
Donley Agency
Eldon Dorsey
Duff's Jewelry and Gift Shop
Friedrich Chevrolet
Glenn Excavating
Hallmann Funeral Home
Hartzler Variety Store
Haycock Soil Service
Jeckel Plumbing and Heating
Jim Krohn Contractor

DELAVAN BUSINESSES (cont'd)

Mary Lou Beauty Salon
Mike's 66 Service Station
Minton Oil Company
Naffziger Insurance Agency
Marco Farm Supply
Mickey's
Mary's Country Kitchen
Orwig Agency
Pizza Village
Roland Rich Ford-Mercury
Shoultz Mason Contractor
Sydney Sunoco Service
Tazewell County National Bank
Watson International, Inc.
Hays True Value Store
Whisler's Barber Shop
Hobby Hideway
Wilbur Eeten Home Sales
Harris Pest Control
Photos by Haycock
Jack Naffziger — Wick Homes
The Ranch
Dan's T-V
Classic Touch Beauty Salon
Maureen's "Permanent" Address
Gerald Groenewold Contractor
Hayes and Zumwalt Attorneys
Perfection Service
Jan's Beauty Shop
Livengood Electric
Delavan Homes
Glen and Peg Shop

DELAVAN PHYSICIANS

Dr. Roger E. Neumann
Dr. Morton C. Morris

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